

# Little Mountain Elementary School Newsletter



March 11, 2016

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

*“Trying to educate children without the involvement of their family is like trying to play a basketball game without all the players on the court.” Bill Bradley*

The research is abundantly clear – nothing motivates a child more than when learning is valued by schools, families and communities working together in partnership. I recently had an opportunity to do some professional reading, Richard Dufour’s “Professional Learning Communities at Work”. The author looked at educational research over the last 30 years and found, over and over again, these key factors in a child’s education:

- When parents are involved, students achieve more, regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnic/racial background, or the parent’s educational level.
- The more extensive the parent involvement, the higher the student achievement.
- When parents are involved, students exhibit more positive attitudes and behavior, are more likely to graduate, and are more likely to attend post-secondary education.
- The benefits of involving parents are not confined to the early years; there are significant gains at all ages and grade levels.
- The most accurate predictor of a student’s achievement in school is the extent to which that student’s family is able to
  - (1) create a home environment that encourages learning;
  - (2) communicate high, yet reasonable, expectations for their children’s achievement and future careers;
  - (3) become involved in their children’s education.

At Little Mountain Elementary, we are proud of the fact that we have many parent volunteers in our school on a daily basis, with many others supporting on the home front. But, we also know that there are many more that would like to help but are unsure of how to do so. The first step is to communicate with your child’s teacher(s) and ask questions about their progress and how you can support what is happening at home. The second way is to take a more active role with our Parent’s Advisory Council. Attending each monthly PAC meeting is a great way to not only meet other parents in the school but also to have input into what is happening at the school level with regards to school wide activities, extra-curricular events, and school initiatives that further reinforces a school culture that we feel is supportive of all students.

As the year continues to unfold we will work hard to ensure that the lines of communication continue to be open between the school, your child’s classroom and your home. In addition, please look for information/opportunities in the forthcoming months, from your child’s teacher regarding how you can be further involved with your child’s education both at school and at home.

I hope you all have a great Spring Break and I look forward to seeing everyone back at school on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Until next month.....

Gabe





### **Please Welcome.....**

In the past two weeks, we have welcomed a new vice-principal to to our school. Mr. Nelmes was away from our school since the end of October, two weeks ago, he announced his retirement. In his place Mrs. Brooke Janzen was appointed Acting Vice-Principal for the remainder of the school year. As a school community, we wish Mr. Nelmes the very best with this new chapter in his life. At the same time, we are excited to have Mrs. Janzen take on this additional role in our school.

### **Kindergarten Registration**

Please remember we have been accepting Kindergarten registrations for the 2016-2017, school year. If you have a child who turns 5 on or before December 31, 2016, please register as soon as possible. Our classes are filling up and in order to ensure you have a space at LME we need your child's registration. Please bring your child's birth certificate with you, as we cannot process your registration without it. The School District also requires Proof of Residency. This would include one of either a utilities bill, Drivers' License, Cable bill etc. or something to prove your address. Please pass this information along to friends and neighbors.

### **Dress for Success**

As the weather begins to warm up, after Spring Break, our children begin wearing less clothes to school. Please keep in mind that LME, like all other schools in our district does have a dress code that we expect all of our students to follow. A "rule of thumb" that we are using with our students is, "If it doesn't tuck you're out of luck." Please ensure that your child is wearing clothing that is suitable for their PLACE OF WORK. Spaghetti straps and halter-tops are not the best choice of clothing for school. Students who are not appropriately dressed will be asked to cover up and/or call home for suitable clothing. In addition, please be aware that the wearing of makeup/perfume/cologne by students at Little Mountain Elementary School is prohibited. With regards to makeup, we firmly believe that our students are still young children and should be treated as such. Too often our children are eager to dress and look "grown-up" when in actuality they have yet to become teenagers. The use of these items is something that we feel is better suited for students in Middle and High School. Students wearing makeup will be quietly asked to wash it off by their classroom teacher. Thank you in advance for your help in monitoring your child's appearance for school.



### **PAC News**



The PAC will once again be having their Spring Plant fundraiser in partnership with Little Mountain Greenhouses. Please watch for the fundraising information coming home with your child after Spring Break.

The orders will be collected by the PAC and delivered to the students before Mother's Day.

### **Afterschool Programs**

We have started sign-up for Karate and Dance classes starting after Spring Break. Each child received a registration form which should be returned to the office to sign-up for their chosen activity. Space is limited in these classes, so if your child is interested in joining, please let us know as soon as possible.

Those students who are choosing not to re-enroll in Karate but received a uniform from the instructors, please return them after your last lesson to the LME office.

## Report Cards

After Spring Break, parents will have an opportunity to review their child's report card. Report cards will be sent home on **Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**. Your child's report card is a snapshot of their journey through school. Areas of success need to be celebrated and areas that require attention need to be discussed and a plan of action should be formulated to overcome the obstacle(s). The plan will only work if there is a role to play for the student, the parent(s) and of course the school. No plan will be successful if any of these three parties have been excluded.



When reviewing the report card please keep in mind that the goal for each student, is to do their very best at all times. Many times, as parents we tend to look at a report card and see how many "Exceeding Expectations" or how many "A's" our children have accumulated. In actuality, we should be looking to see that the student is **FULLY MEETING** the expectations for a child at that Grade level, in the different identified curricular areas. This level of expectation does not change from year to year but it is based on Age/Grade level expectations. For students in the intermediate grades, a child receiving an "A" in a particular subject does not mean that they will be getting "Exceeding Expectations" as performance levels for each outcome in that particular subject. It means that he/she completed work at a high level, showing an excellent understanding of the concepts introduced. A student receiving an "Exceeding Expectations" for the performance level is actually working at a minimum of one year above grade level expectations.

Please also review the teacher's comments and the "ways to support learning at home and at school". The comments and suggestions given in each section of the Report Card is designed to give you further insight into your child's progress and ideas on how to help them continue to succeed in the next term.

Finally, the comments/grades/performance levels in your child's report card should never be a surprise to the parents. The report card was designed to be a formalization of a conversation that takes place between the home and the school throughout the year. Parent-teacher interviews, telephone calls, notes in a student's planner are all important avenues to ensure that parents are continuously updated of their child's progress. The report card is a "measuring stick" that exhibits a child's success as they progress through their school year.

As we enter the third term, it is important that students are reminded that these next few months are as important as the past seven months. Arriving at school on time, ready and willing to learn is critical for continued success. Just as important as being at school on a regular basis, it is critical that each child, regardless of age gets sufficient sleep at night. Term 3 is a time of assessments for all of our children, regardless of grade level, and therefore being well rested and being at school is crucial for success. In your child's journey through school, we all have a significant role to play and it is important that we all continue to work together to ensure that your child, our student, has every opportunity to not only succeed, but excel!

## Upcoming Dates to Remember...



### **March 14 – March 28.....Spring Break**

All schools in our school district will be closed for these two weeks. We hope that it is a fun and restful time for your family! School resumes on Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>

### **Thursday, April 7.....Report Cards Home**

All students will be receiving their second term report card on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Please celebrate the successes you see and work with your child to form a plan for success to overcome challenges identified in this report.

### **Friday, April 8.....Early Dismissal – 12:00 pm**

On Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, all students will be dismissed at 12:00 pm to allow our staff the opportunity to meet with parents to discuss student learning thus far in the school year. Please look for more detailed information from your child's teacher regarding interview times and format for this afternoon.

### **Wednesday, April 13.....LME Math Parent Night – 6: 30 pm**

Please join us on April 13<sup>th</sup> for an evening of Math Challenges where parents in attendance will have an opportunity to experience how their children learn their Math Skills across the Grade levels at LME. This one-hour math Open-House will take place in our gymnasium and will consist of a number of stations where parents will have an opportunity to see how math is taught at our school. Stations will be run by our student leaders and some staff will be in attendance to answer questions parents may have regarding the approaches and the resources that are being used.

### **Friday, April 22.....Earth Day / “Walk – to – School”**

In recognition of “Earth Day” on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, we are asking our students to use an alternate mode of transportation to and from school. Students, Parents and Staff are asked to walk, ride their bike, roller blade, etc., to school instead of getting a ride or driving to school. Students who live a considerable distance from the school are asked to come up with a plan where they walk “part-way” to school (eg. from the IGA) Each classroom teacher will record the number of students who have used an alternate mode of transportation to and from school on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the class which has recorded the highest number of students participating in this endeavour will receive a class prize. We are hoping for 100% participation on this day which means a relatively empty parking lot.....after all, we are classified as a non-bussing school.

In addition to encouraging an alternate mode of transportation to and from school on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, we are also asking our students to bring a “Garbage-Free” lunch to school. The class that has the least amount of garbage on this day from lunches and snacks (taking the garbage home does not count) will also receive a prize for their class. Help us teach our students, that respecting our environment is a responsibility for all, both young and old.

### **Monday, April 25.....District Professional Development Day**

All schools in our district will be closed to students on April 25<sup>th</sup> to allow teachers to attend Curriculum Implementation workshops and in our district.

### **Sunday, April 24.....PAC Spring Market – 10:00 am – 4:00 pm**

Our school PAC is hosting a Craft and Vendor Fair on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> in our school gymnasium. If you are interested in being a vendor at this fair, please contact the school or send an email to: [lindseyday182@gmail.com](mailto:lindseyday182@gmail.com)

### **Saturday, April 30.....Wind and Tide Preschool Open House – 11:00 am**

Wind and Tide Preschool is holding an Open House and Registration Day on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 11: 00 a.m. Parents with 3 year old children who wish to see the pre- school and/or register are welcome to come to the preschool at 11:00 a.m. and parents of children that are 4 years old are to attend at 11: 45 a.m. If you have a 3 or 4 year-old child please take this opportunity to come to the Open House on the 30<sup>th</sup>, meet the staff, review aspects of the curriculum that are covered in pre-school during the year, and ask questions which pertain to your child. We feel privileged to have Wind and Tide Pre-school as part of our school and we are looking forward to a continuation of this partnership in the years to come.

## A Final Note

### My plans for the 2016 – 2017 school year are.....

Although it is only the second week in March, it is already that time of year where plans are being made for the next school year. An integral part of this process is confirming our student numbers for next year. Over the past two years, our numbers have fluctuated and now we are at a point in time that we are presently formulating a wait list for all grade levels.....Kindergarten through Grade 6.

In order to be able to accept new registrations at any grade level it is imperative that we know your plans for September. Please complete the questionnaire below and return it to your child’s teacher as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your quick response to this request.



<b>Intentions for 2016 – 2017 School Year</b>	
<b>Student Name:</b> _____	
<b>Present Grade Level:</b> _____	
<b>Please CIRCLE one of the following:</b>	
<b>WILL be Attending LME September 2016</b>	<b>Will NOT be Attending LME September 2016</b>
<b>Parent/Guardian Name:</b> _____	
<b>Other pertinent information for the school to know:</b>	